

The Robert Neal Cabin  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

*Adjoining*

HABS No. PA 46

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. PA 4

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Charles M. Stotz, District Officer  
818 Bessemer Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.

## ROBERT NEAL CABIN

Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Owner City of Pittsburgh.

Date of Erection 1787 - 1795.

Architect Unknown.

Builder Robert Neal.

Present Condition Poor. Roof and gables are modern, also present plank floor on inside; the western end has sunk considerably below the original level. The whole cabin in an extreme state of dilapidation.

Number of Stories One and one-half.

Materials of Construction Log walls chinked with stone and clay; stone chimney. Old roof covering has disappeared, present roof being overlapping boards. Present first floor modern 2" x 12" planks on old log joists.

Other Existing Records Data regarding land transfers from Deed Books of Allegheny County.

Additional Data: The first record of land transfer in this connection is the grant of the tract known as "Highlands" to Robert Neal by the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by patent dated December 10th, 1787, Patent Book No. 11, page 448, as recited in deed of Robert Neal and Elizabeth his wife, conveying same to John Reed on August 21st, 1795, Deed Book 4, page 417, the consideration being given as 360 pounds 5 shillings. The cabin was presumably built by Neal between those dates. The land afterwards came into the possession of General James O'Hara, and through him, of Mrs. Mary E. Schenley, being part of the land sold by her to the City of Pittsburgh in 1891 as an addition to the 300 acres which she presented to the City in 1839 for use as a park, (Schenley Park).

Regarding the two small window openings in the East Elevation, the following comment is from the "Pittsburgh Post-Gazette" of March 9th, 1913:-

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"Few of the old style loophole windows (less than a foot high and two feet long) remain, as they were enlarged after the danger from Indians had passed. But there is one (?) in the cabin near Indian Spring in Schenley Park\*\*\*\* built by Robert Neal\*\*\*\*."

The cabin is of typical Pennsylvania type log construction, with the corners carefully notched together and chinked with stone and clay. The old door frame on the south front is intact, as also one side of the original window frame on the same front, this opening having been enlarged on one side at some later date. The door on the north side of the cabin is also of later date.

The shaped and beveled projecting ends of the roof rafters are worthy of especial notice. The old stone fireplace is in fair condition, and a smaller fireplace occurs at the left hand side of the chimney, with a separate flue. While the space between the original ground level and the floor has been entirely filled with earth at an unknown period, the logs supporting the present plank floor are still in place - they are hewn flat on the top only, and are possibly the original ones.

Louis Stevens  
Louis Stevens - Author

Approved

Charles M. Stotz  
Charles M. Stotz  
District Officer PA 4

Date Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 1935

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Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.